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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1777.

Whitehall, January 22, 1777.

THE following Letter from Lieutenant-General Clinton to Lord George Germain was this Morning received, by Captain Drummond, who arrived in His Majeſty's Ship Mercury from Rhode Iſland.

Newport Rhode Iſland, December 9, 1776.

MY LORD,

HAVING received General Howe's Orders to embark, with Two Brigades of Britiſh, and Two Brigades of Heſſian Troops, and, in Conjunction with Commodore Sir Peter Parker's Fleet, to make a Deſcent upon this Iſland in the moſt effectual Manner for the full Poſſeſſion of it, and for the Security of the Town and Harbour, we ſailed from New York on the 1ſt of December, and arrived at Weaver's Bay, on the Weſt Side of this Iſland, on the Evening of the 7th following. On the 8th, at Day-break, the Commodore having made ſuch a Diſpoſition of the Fleet as he thought proper to cover the Landing of the Troops, they diſembarked at the above-mentioned Bay without the leaſt Oppoſition; when, being informed that the Rebels had quitted the Works in and about the Town of Newport, and were retiring towards Briſtol Ferry, I detached Major General Preſcott, with the Grenadiers and Light Infantry, to intercept them, ſuſtaining him with a Body of Troops under the Command of Lieutenant General Earl Percy. Major General Preſcott took two Pieces of Cannon, a few Priſoners, and obliged them to quit their Fort on this Side the Ferry, and retire to the Continent. I likewiſe ſent a Battalion to take Poſſeſſion of Newport, the Capital of the Iſland, in which were found ſome Cannon and Stores, which the Rebels, in their ſudden Retreat, had left behind them.

I ſhall, as ſoon as poſſible, ſend Troops to the Iſlands of Cananicut and Prudence, and occupy ſuch other Poſts as may be neceſſary for the Security of the Harbour.

Having had it in Command from General Howe to give your Lordſhip the earlieſt Intelligence of the Succeſs of His Majeſty's Troops; I have the Honor to tranſmit this to your Lordſhip by Captain Drummond, one of my Aide de Camps, to whom I beg Leave to refer your Lordſhip for any Particulars which you may wiſh to be informed of.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

H. CLINTON.

Admiralty-Office, January 22, 1777.

LIEUTENANT Logie, of His Majeſty's Ship the Mercury, arrived in Town this Morning from Rhode Iſland with the following Letter from Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Mr. Stephens.

Chatham, Rhode Iſland Harbour, December 11, 1776.

SIR,

THE Commanders in Chief in America having thought proper, while the Seaſon would admit of it, to employ a conſiderable Number of His Majeſty's Ships and Troops for the Purpoſe of making Deſcents on the Colony of Rhode Iſland; and Lord Howe having done me the Honor to appoint me to the Command by Sea, (Lord Shuldham having Leave to return to England by the moſt early Conveyance) I directed Commodore Hotham (agreeable to my Inſtructions from the Vice Admiral) to proceed with His Majeſty's Frigates the Brune, Mercury, and King's fiſher, and alſo all the Tranſports with the Troops under the Command of Lieutenant-General Clinton, (the Grand Duke of Ruſſia excepted, which was judged to be too large) by the Way of the Sound, whilſt I proceeded with the great Ships, ſome Frigates, and the laſt-named Tranſport, by Sandy Hook to the Southward of Long Iſland. I ſailed the 1ſt Inſtant, and on the 5th joined Commodore Hotham in the Sound in Black Point Bay, a Place he had judiciouſly choſen for the Protection of the Tranſports againſt the Violence of a ſtrong N. W. Wind, which blew the Night before. The 6th I turned down with the Fleet, to be as near as poſſible to the Place of our Deſtination. At Four the next Morning the Wind ſprung up at W. S. W. and by Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, the whole Fleet came to an Anchor off Weaver's Cove, Rhode Iſland. The following Morning Captain Caulfield, (who had the Direction of the Flat Boats) landed all the Troops without Oppoſition; and I have the Pleaſure to inform their Lordſhips, that Rhode Iſland with the Iſles adjacent are now in the Poſſeſſion of General Clinton.

Captain Wallace, of The Experiment, led the Fleet in by the Weſt or Narriganſet Paſſage. An Arrangement was made for covering the Tranſports; but we only paſſed two Works, without Guns, and intercepted a Brig of 160 Tons, (which the Experiment took) laden with Pipe and Hogſhead Staves, and Bees-Wax. On the firſt Appearance of the Fleet, three Rebel Privateers, of Thirty-four, Thirty, and Twenty-eight Guns, went up from Newport to Providence, where they are now with ſeveral others; and I ſhall hope to put an effectual Stop to any farther Miſchief from that Neſt of Pirates. General Clinton ſends one of his Aid de Camps in the Mercury with his Diſpatches; and I have directed Captain Montagu to ſend his Lieutenant Expreſs with mine. Encloſed is a Liſt of the Rebel Privateers at Providence, commonly called The Continental Fleet.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient, humble Servant,

P. PARKER.

A Liſt of the Rebel Ships and Privateers at Providence, commonly called The Continental Fleet.

Warren, —— Hopkins and John Hopkins, Commanders, 32 Guns.
Columbus, —— Olney, 30 Guns.
Providence, Abraham Whipple, 28 Guns.
Blaze Caſtle, —— Monro, 22 Guns.
Ship Jane, W. Cox, (Privateer) 20 Six-Pounders.
A Brig, ——— 12 Guns.
Sloop Providence, Hoyſted Hacker, 12 Guns.

Chatham, Rhode Iſland, December 11, 1776. P. PARKER.

[Price Three-pence.]

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